

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS PRESS POLICY

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
HANDLING OF US AND ALLIED ACTIONS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE/ CBMS
AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY

1. WE BELIEVE US AND ALLIED PRESS POLICY WITH REGARD TO DISCLOSURE

OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE/CBMS SHOULD BE POSITIVE,
STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND FACTUAL. WHEN COORDINATION OF EARLY CBM COM-
PLIANCE IS BEHIND US, WE WOULD EXPECT US AND ALLIED ACTIONSIN THE
CONTEXT OF CBMS WOULD BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED ON A ROUTINE AND SEMI-
AUTOMATIC BASIS.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR RECORD IN CBMS IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD
SPEAK FOR ITSELF. JOURNALISTS AND COMMENTATORS ARE MORE LIKELY TO
BE CONVINCED THUS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE SET AN EXEMPLARY RECORD OF
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FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CSCE DOCUMENT
THAN IF WE ATTEMPTED TO BALLYHOO OUR GOOD INTENTIONS IN ADVANCE.

3. WE RECOMMEND DEVELOPING US GUIDANCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE,

IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES. POLADS ARE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS CBMS PRESS POLICY ON SEPTEMBER 2, AND NEWSMEN HAVE ALREADY QUERIED THIS MISSION ABOUT CBM MEASURES TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH EXERCISE GROSSEE ROCHADE AND DEEP EXPRESS. GUIDANCE IS THUS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY.

4. THE CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT STATES CLEARLY THAT BOTH CBM NOTIFICATIONS AND CBM INVITATIONS TO OBSERVERS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED "THROUGH USUAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS". IT WOULD SEEM THAT BOTH A) DIPLOMATIC COURTESY, AND B) OUR DESIRE SERUPULOUSLY TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE MIGHT BE ABUSING CBMS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES, ARGUE FOR MAKING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALLIED ACTIONS TAKEN IN CBM IMPLEMENTATION NOT EARLIER THAN ONE OR TWO DAYS AFTER THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

5. FURTHERMORE, AS CERTAIN GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CBMS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT, AND AS ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF FUTURE MANEUVERS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, WE WILL WISH TO TURN ASIDE SPECULATIVE OR HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANS OR INTENTIONS REGARDING FUTURE CBM IMPLEMENTATION MOVES SO AS NOT TO COMPROMISE ALLIED POSITIONS IN ONGOING CONSULTATION.

6. WE PROPOSE USING THE FOLLOWING MODEL AS BOTH INTERIM US PRESS GUIDANCE AND AS A BASIS FOR INSTRUCTING US FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2 POLADS DISCUSSION OF CBMS PRESS POLICY:

Q. WE NOTICED IN THE PRESS RELEASE ON THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES THAT APPROPRIATE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE VARIOUS MANEUVERS IN THE SERIES. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR PLANS IN THIS REGARD?

A. THE US (THE ALLIES) INTEND(S) TO COMPLY FULLY WITH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES. SUCH COMPLIANCE HAS ALREADY BEGUN, AND CONSULTATION CONTINUES AMONG THE ALLIES--ES-CONFIDENTIAL

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PECIALLY AMONG CO-PARTICIPANTS IN SPECIFIC FORTHCOMING MULTI-NATIONAL MANEUVERS.

Q. WHAT STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN?

A. ON AUGUST 22, ALLIES PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE GROSSEE ROCHADE-- A MANEUVER WHICH QUALIFIES IN CSCE TERMS AS "EXCEEDING A TOTAL OF 25,000 TROOPS"--GAVE DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATIONS OF THIS MANEUVER TO EACH OF THE CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES UNDER THE CSCE PROVISIONS REQUIRING PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS. ALSO ON AUGUST 22, ALLIES WITH SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FORCES PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE DEEP EXPRESS--A

MANEUVER WHICH FALLS BELOW THE CSCE 25,000 TROOP THRESHOLD--VOLUNTEERED DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATIONS OF THIS MANEUVER TO EACH OF THE CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES UNDER THE CSCE PROVISIONS ENCOURAGING PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SMALLER-SCALE MILITARY MANEUVERS.

Q. HAVE OBSERVERS BEEN INVITED TO ANY OF THE AUTUMN FORGE MANEUVERS?

A. AS WE INDICATED, NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE AMONG THE ALLIES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CBMS. WHEN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q. THEN YOU DO INTEND TO INVITE OBSERVERS TO SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING MANEUVERS?

A. WE HAVE OUTLINED OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF ENTHUSIASTIC COMPLIANCE WITH THE OVERALL SPIRIT OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD ESPECIALLY REFER YOU TO THE STATEMENTS IN THE DOCUMENT SETTING FORTH THE REASONS WHY THE PARTICIPATING STATES AGREED UPON THESE CBM MEASURES. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES AND PRIOR TO COMMUNICATION TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ACTUAL NOTIFICATIONS AND INVITATION TO OBSERVERS, IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TO TALK ABOUT OUR SPECIFIC PLANS IN CONNECTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFIC MANEUVERS.

7. ACTION: REQUEST GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR SEPTEMBER 2
POLADS.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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